

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: DR. KISSINGER'S AUGUST 9 LAHORE PRESS CONFERENCE TEXT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT
LAHORE AIRPORT UPON DEPARTURE AUGUST 9:

QUOTE I WOULD LIKE, BEFORE I TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS, TO MAKE TWO
POINTS. FIRST, ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES AND MY FAMILY AND
MYSELF, I WOULD ONCE AGAIN WANT TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. BHUTTO
FOR THE EXTRAORDINARILY WARM RECEPTION THAT WE HAVE HAD HERE.
OUR TALKS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED WITH A CORDIALITY THAT HAS MARKED
OUR RELATIONSHIP AND I CONSIDER THEM BOTH WIDE-RANGING AND VERY
CONSTRUCTIVE. SECONDLY, ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT, I WANT TO
EXPRESS THE SYMPATHY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE DISASTER
THAT HAS BEFALLEN PAKISTAN IN THE FLOOD, AND WE ARE MAKING
AVAILABLE 200,000 TONS OF WHEAT UNDER PL-480 TO ASSIST IN THE
RECECOVERY. THOSE ARE THE TWO THINGS THAT I WANTED TO SAY
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AND NOW I WILL BE GLAD TO TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS. PERHAPS WE CAN
START WITH QUESTIONS FROM PAKISTANI JOURNALISTS BEFORE ORDER
BREAKS DOWN WHEN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ARE ASKING QUESTIONS.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, HAS YOUR VISIT IN ANY WAY CHANGED PAKISTAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE REPROCESSING PLANT?

A. ARE YOU PAKISTANI?

REPORTER: PAKISTANI-BASED.

A. WELL, THE ISSUE OF REPROCESSING, AS YOU KNOW, IS AN EXTREMELY COMPLICATED ISSUE. PAKISTAN HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH FRANCE ON A REPROCESSING PLANT FOR MANY YEARS AND HAS CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO IT. THAT AGREEMENT HAS ALL THE INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS THAT WERE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE AT THE TIME THAT THOSE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED. AS FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED, WE HAVE, AS WE HAVE STUDIED THE PROBLEM, DEVELOPED INCREASING CONCERN ABOUT THE SPREAD OF REPROCESSING PLANTS, EVEN WITH THE SAFEGUARDS THAT WERE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE SEVERAL YEARS AGO. OUR CONCERN IS NOT DIRECTED TOWARDS THE INTENTIONS OF PAKISTAN, BUT TOWARDS THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WHICH CAN HAVE, IN OUR VIEW, DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND. THE PRIME MINISTER AND I HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE TALKS ABOUT THESE TWO..., ABOUT THE PROBLEMS THAT ARE PRODUCED BY THESE TWO ATTITUDES. WE HAVE AGREED TO CONTINUE THESE DISCUSSIONS IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD, BUT WE ARE GOING TO CONDUCT THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DETERMINATION ON BOTH SIDES THAT THERE WILL BE NO CONFRONTATION ON THAT ISSUE.

Q. SIR, THERE APPEARS TO BE A DICHOTOMY IN THE AMERICAN APPROACH TO THE NUCLEAR EFFORTS IN PAKISTAN AND INDIA. HOW DO YOU RESOLVE THAT?

A. NO, THERE IS NO DICHOTOMY IN THE APPROACH TOWARDS INDIA AND PAKISTAN. WE HAVE DEPLORED, WE HAVE GREATLY DEPLORED, THE INDIAN EFFORT IN SETTING OFF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE, AND WE BELIEVE THAT WHAT INDIA HAS DONE IS VERY INIMICABLE TO THE PROCESS OF PROLIFERATION AND THEREFORE TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROBLEMS OF WORLD PEACE. WE NEVERTHELESS -- AND WE ALSO CAN UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS OF PAKISTAN WITH RESPECT TO THAT -- NEVERTHELESS WE BELIEVE THAT THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE TECHNOLOGY IS OF SUCH LONG-RANGE DANGER TO THE SURVIVAL OF MANKIND THAT AT SOME POINT THE LINE MUST BE DRAWN, AND THE PROBLEM WE NOW FACE IN THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WE STARTED THIS MORNING IS HOW TO RECONCILE THE PARTICULAR CONCERNS OF ONE COUNTRY WITH THE GENERAL CONCERNS. AND WHILE I DO NOT SAY WE HAVE REACHED A CONCLUSION, IN FACT WE HAVE NOT REACHED A CONCLUSION, WE WILL AS I SAID CONDUCT THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ATTITUDE THAT WE WILL AVOID A CONFRONTATION.

Q. SIR, DO YOU GENERALLY BELIEVE THAT DESPITE THE LIFTING

OF THE EMBARGO, THE RATE OF SUPPLY OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN IS RATHER SLOW?

A. WELL, THE AMERICAN BUREAUCRACY IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY COMPLICATED AS ITS NUMBERS MULTIPLY. AND EVEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS TROUBLE GETTING ANSWERS TO HIS QUESTIONS FROM THE BUREAUCRACY, UNRELATED TO PAKISTAN. I BELIEVE THAT THE REQUESTS THAT HAVE BEEN BEFORE US HAVE BEEN, ARE NOW ALL EITHER ANSWERED OR IN THE PROCESS OF BEING ANSWERED, EXCEPT FOR ONE ITEM. AND I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN THIS FIELD NOW.

Q. SR, DID YOU DISCUSS THE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE SUBCONTINENT AND THE PROPOSAL MOOTED BY THE SHAHANSHAH OF IRAN ABOUT THE COMMON MARKET COMPRISING PAKISTAN, INDIA AND BANGLADESH, AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION? (QUESTION VERY FAINTLY HEARD.) DID YOU DISCUSS THAT?

A. WELL, THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS AT NORMALIZATION IN THIS AREA. AND WE HAVE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE FAR-SIGHTED EFFORTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY ALL OF THE PARTIES, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO PAY PARTICULAR TRIBUTE TO THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HIS EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION. AS FOR ANY PARTICULAR SCHEME, SUCH AS THE COMMON MARKET, OF THESE COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT OPPOSE IT AND IF IT COMMENDS ITSELF TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED, THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION. BUT IT SEEMS TO ME TO BE A MATTER THAT THE PARTIES INVOLVED HAVE TO DECIDE IN NEGOTIATION AMONG EACH OTHER AND IT IS NOT ONE THAT SHOULD APPEAR AS AN AMERICAN SCHEME.
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Q. SIR, YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED WHAT OTHER DISPUTES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN SETTLED. ONLY ONE REMAINS. AS ONE OF THE PARTIES WHO SUPPORTED THE RESOLUTION IN THE UN, WILL AMERICA BE PLAYING A HELPFUL ROLE IN THE SOLUTION OF THE KASHMIR?
(QUESTION VERY FAINT.)

A. WELL, AS I HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE POSITION OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN A PRINCIPLED BUT PATIENT MANNER AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN HAS NOT ASKED ANY OUTSIDE COUNTRY TO INJECT ITSELF IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. WE WELCOME ANY EFFORTS AT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION AND WE ALSO COMMEND THE BASIC ATTITUDE OF NEGOTIATING THIS ISSUE WITH PATIENCE AND ON THE BASIS OF PRINCIPLE.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, WHAT CONNECTION IF ANY IS THERE BETWEEN THE PURCHASE OF A REPROCESSING PLANT AND THE SALE OF AMERICAN WEAPONS TO PAKISTAN?

A. I DO NOT WANT TO SAY MORE ABOUT THE PROBLEM

OF REPROCESSING THAN WHAT I HAVE ALREADY STATED. THESE ARE COMPLICATED NEGOTIATIONS AMONG FRIENDS AND THEY WILL BE DISCUSSED ON THEIR MERITS WITHOUT BLACKMAIL OR PRESSURE BY EITHER SIDE. WE HAVE TO RECONCILE THESE TWO PRINCIPLES THAT I HAVE ENUNCIATED AT THE BEGINNING, THE CONCERN OF PAKISTAN WITH AGREEMENTS IT HAS MADE IN GOOD FAITH ON THE BASIS OF THE KNOWLEDGE IT HAD AT THE TIME OF MAKING IT, AND THE CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF NONPROLIFERATION. AND THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, WILL THE UNITED STATES NOW SELL AIRCRAFT TO PAKISTAN?

A. WELL, I DON'T WANT TO GOT INTO ANY PARTICULAR SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP. WE WILL LOOK AT PAKISTAN'S REQUESTS WITH A BASIC ATTITUDE OF INTEREST IN THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN AND WE WILL DISCUSS THEM AS THEY COME AND ON THEIR MERITS.
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Q. SR, DO YOU REQUIRE SOME FURTHER SAFEGUARDS ON THIS REPROCESSING PLANT? OR IS IT YOUR POSITION THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD NOT HAVE IT AT ALL UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES?

A. WELL, THE PROBLEM OF REPROCESSING IS NOT ONE THAT IS DIRECTED AGAINST ANY ONE COUNTRY. WE HAVE FOR EXAMPLE WORKED OUT SOME ARRANGEMENTS ON REPROCESSING WITH IRAN THAT MAY OR MAY NOT COMMEND ITSELF TO OTHER NATIONS AS THEY STUDY THE PROBLEM OVER A PERIOD OF TIME. WE BELIEVE THAT WHAT WE SHOULD LOOK FOR -- I AM SPEAKING NOW FOR THE UNITED STATES, NOT FOR PAKISTAN -- THE UNITED STATES WILL TRY TO ELABORATE GENERAL PRINCIPLES WITH RESPECT TO REPROCESSING THAT WOULD APPLY EQUALLY TO ALL COUNTRIES AND THAT DO NOT INVOLVE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ANY ONE PARTICULAR COUNTRY. AND IT'S WITH THIS ATTITUDE THAT WE CONDUCT OUR CONVERSATIONS ALSO WITH OUR FRIENDS HERE.

Q. (PAKISTANI JOURNALIST -- QUESTION INAUDIBLE)

A. I HAVE NOT SAID THAT ANY CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED. AND I AM SURE THAT THE PAKISTANI PRESS KNOWS THE PRIME MINISTER IS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE AND OF SPIRIT. ALL I DESCRIBED WAS THE ISSUE AS WE DEFINED IT AND THE ATTITUDE WITH WHICH WE WILL SEEK TO SOLVE IT. AND WE HAVE SOLVED OTHER PROBLEMS BETWEEN US, IN FACT WE HAVE ALWAYS SOLVED PROBLEMS BETWEEN US, AND WE WILL APPROACH IT IN THIS SPIRIT.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, YOU SAID THAT THERE WILL BE NO CONFRONTATION, BUT THE U.S. CONGRESS APPEARS TO BE BENT ON CONFRONTATION OVER THIS ISSUE; ON THE BASIS OF YOUR CONVERSATIONS HERE, ARE YOU CONFIDENT THAT YOU CAN HANDLE THE CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE?

A. WELL, AS I POINTED OUT WE WILL HAVE FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

OVER THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD AND WE ARE VERY HOPEFUL
TO AVOID CONFRONTATION FROM ANY SOURCE.

Q. SIR, IF PAKISTAN GOES AHEAD WITH THE REPROCESSING
PLANT, WILL THIS MEAN A CUT IN AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID?

A. WELL I THINK THAT IT'S TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO
SPECULATE NOW ABOUT EVENTS THAT MAY HAPPEN IN THE
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FUTURE. I HAVE COME HERE AS A FRIEND AND WE ARE DISCUSSING THESE
ISSUE AS FRIENDS SO THERE'S NO POINT IN SPECULATING ABOUT HOW
PROVISIONS IN OUR LAW WILL APPLY TO CIRCUMSTANCES THAT AT THIS
MOMENT DO NOT EXIST.

Q. SIR, IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT FRENCH
REPROCESSING PLANTS WILL BE USED AS SORT OF A REGIONAL CENTER
SUCH AS YOU WERE DISCUSSING WITH IRAN?
(REMAINDER OF QUESTION UNINTELLIGIBLE.)

A. I JUST DON'T WANT TO GO INTO THE VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES
THAT MAY EMERGE FROM DISCUSSIONS. I HAVE EXPLAINED THE SPIRIT
WITH WHICH THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND THE
ATTITUDES THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE, AND FROM THAT IT SHOULD BE
APPARENT THAT WE WILL LOOK FOR CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS.

Q. SIR, IS IT TRUE THAT YOUR ATTITUDE, THE US ATTITUDE
ABOUT THE REPROCESSING PLANT REMAINS THE SAME THAT IT WAS
BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL IN LAHORE?

A. THE BASIC U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PROBLEM OF
REPROCESSING AND ITS IMPACT ON NONPROLIFERATION IS AS I HAVE
STATED AT THE BEGINNING, IT IS SUBSTANTIALLY UNCHANGED. BUT THAT
IS NOT, BUT THIS IS A BASIC ATTITUDE, IT IS NOT TO BE APPLIED
TO CONCRETE CIRCUMSTANCES. AND THAT IS WHAT WE WILL TRY TO DISCUSS
IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD.

Q. SIR, THE INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY CHIEF HAS SAID THAT WITHIN
FIVE YEARS INDIA WILL BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN NUCLEAR MATERIALS.
MEANWHILE THE AMERICANS ARE PROVIDING INDIA WITH NUCLEAR FUELS.
(PAKISTANI JOURNALIST -- INAUDIBLE)

A. NO THE AMERICAN SUPPLY TO INDIA REFERS TO ONE
PARTICULAR CONTRACT THAT HAS BEEN MADE MANY YEARS AGO.
CERTAINLY WITH RESPECT TO ANY NEW CONTRACTS THE UNITED STATES
WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPACT OF INDIAN ATTITUDES ON THE
PROBLEM OF NONPROLIFERATION AND WOULD INSIST ON SAFEGUARDS
THAT WOULD GIVE US ASSURANCE WITH RESPECT TO THIS. THE
ONLY IMMEDIATE ISSUE IS WHETHER A CONTRACT THAT WAS MADE
MANY YEARS AGO SHOULD BE FULFILLED WITH RESPECT TO ONE
PARTICULAR REACOTR, AND THAT RAISES QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT
TO THE GENERAL RELIABILITY OF AMERICAN CONTRACTS ONCE THEY
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ARE MADE. THIS IS THE ISSUE THAT ARISES. BUT IN ANY NEW CONTRACT THAT INDIA WOULD ATTEMPT TO MAKE WITH US, THE BASIC PRINCIPLE I HAVE STATED WITH NONRPOLIFERATION WOULD BE STRINGENTLY APPLIED.

Q. SIR, TALKING ABOUT CONTRACTS, IS IT POSSIBLE THAT PAKISTAN CAN NOW BACK OUT OF THE FRENCH DEAL IN VIEW OF THEFACT THAT IT HAS ALREADY SIGNED A CONTRACT?

A. I SIMPLY DO NOT THINK THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO GO INTO ALL THE COMPLEXITIES. THIS IS ONE OF THE ASPECTS OF THE PAKISTAN PROBLEM THAT EXISTS AND OF COURSE, AS THEPRIME MINISTER SAID YESTERDAY, PAKISTAN CONDUCTS A PRINCIPLED POLICY. WE HAVE TO LOOK AT ALL OF THESE ASPECTS IN OUR DISCUSSIONS. AND I WILL NOT NOW PREJUDGE WHAT THE POSSIBLE OUTCOME COULD BE, WHAT SOLUTIONS COULD BE FOUND, IF ANY SOLUTIONS CAN BE FOUND. BUT THE SPIRIT IN WHICH WE HAVE ALWAYS CONDUCTED OUR DISCUSSIONS, AND THE ATTITUDE WHICH WE HAVE DECIDED TO ADOPT, AT LEAST MAKES ME BELIEVE THAT WE WILL GIVE IT A VERY GOOD TRY. I THINK I BETTER GET MY PLANE.

THANK YOU. UNQUOTE
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